

MBK-0012
1 April 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Bangkok Bureau--March 1982

I. GENERAL

There was no joke perpetrated this year that came close to matching last year's traumatic April Fool's Day coup attempt. Nonetheless, reminders from the Embassy and from Headquarters have kept our attention focused on security and safety matters this past month. Following the request of the Chief of Mission that all Mission components reduce their classified holdings, early in the month the bureau conducted a 2-day "crash" burn and shred operation on 9-10 March to destroy dated classified material and stocks of forms. More than two safe drawers were thus emptied and more than six feet of forms destroyed. Security briefings were given to the U.S. staff and, separately, to select foreign nationals to encourage better security practices and to improve bureau physical security. Strict prohibitions on unauthorized visitors to the bureau were posted and additional security cameras and locks were ordered for installation. The campaign was given an extra boost by visiting FBIS Deputy Director [redacted] who urged that the bureau's remaining classified holdings be purged of possibly embarrassing material for storage in the Embassy. By month's end, the bureau had acquired adequate safe space to accommodate such material and roughly one-fourth of the files had been screened. Finally, two security officers from Seoul visited the bureau on the 24th to install improved safe control mechanisms and to change safe combinations. Hopefully by the end of May, the bureau's classified holdings will be reduced sufficiently to allow storage in a single safe.

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II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. Contrary to the old saw, this year's March came in like a lamb and went out like a lion as the coup in Bangladesh and the VCP congress in Hanoi combined for an extremely busy end of month for the bureau.

2. Alerted by an AFP bulletin, datelined Tokyo, at 0401 GMT

on 24 March citing Japanese Embassy reports from Dacca that Bangladesh President Sattar had been relieved of his duties in a coup led by Army Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Ershad, the bureau immediately instituted an open speaker watch of Dacca radio. Nonetheless, coverage of the initial stages of the coup was limited to AFP as Dacca radio was unheard on all known frequencies. The first Dacca report was monitored some 2 hours later at 0605 GMT as reception improved. Fortunately, continued fair reception allowed the bureau to file extensively from primary sources. This was in sharp contrast to the bureau's inability to monitor Dacca during the May 1981 assassination of President Ziaur Rahman.

3. The Fifth Congress of the Vietnamese Communist Party, held in Hanoi 27-31 March, contrasted significantly from an operational viewpoint. Hanoi radio kindly provided advance schedules of its daily coverage of the congress, thus allowing ample time to arrange staffing, handling procedures and coverage coordination with Okinawa Bureau. Coordination with Okinawa worked extremely well, with one bureau backstopping the other's primary coverage time and assisting with processing as requested. Due to numerous Western rumors concerning VCP General Secretary Le Duan's health, the bureau also provided Headquarters with monitors' impressions of his voice during the 55-minute live reading of the VCP political report at the opening session. A cassette recording of the speech was forwarded to Headquarters.

B. Lateral Services

1. At the request of the Embassy's Refugee Section, Bureau Lao-Cambodian Unit Chief [] on 5 March translated in several hours a 4-page handwritten appeal to the UNHCR compiled by Lao refugees in Thailand who were being repatriated to Laos.

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2. A letter was received at the end of the month from [] local director of the Orderly Departure Program, who thanked the bureau for an earlier briefing of four ODP officers and for supplying copies of the bureau file, including recently materials from the Fifth Vietnamese Party Congress, which were described as "very useful in our work."

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C. Technical

1. A long-planned but often delayed major bureau project was finally concluded during the month [] [] were relocated into an overhead configuration. The project was primarily hampered by thievery and vandalism last April and May and by a lengthy rainy season. The difficult task was done entirely by the bureau's engineering and technical staff.

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2. In order to update a 1978 study and to assist study of the pros and cons of a possible bureau move to a new [] building at some

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III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. The bureau's latest recruitment campaign--for a fourth Indonesian/Malay monitor--gained unexpected speed during the month when nearly 20 local candidates applied for the vacancy. A short-list of four applicants is being tested and interviewed at this writing. Meanwhile, the visa problems of selected Cambodian monitor recruit [redacted] continued. A letter from the Embassy's Personnel Office was drafted in mid-month and sent to the Thai Foreign Ministry in the hope that it will facilitate the visa application.

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2. Thanks to an arrangement made by bureau engineer [redacted] bureau editors visited the [redacted] on 2 March for a tour and briefing on Embassy communications and circuitry, particularly as it interfaces with FBIS communications.

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B. Buildings and Grounds

The final stage of refurbishing the [redacted] premises ended on 30 March with completion of painting of the bureau's interior walls and stairwells.

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C. Other

Several bureau employees found themselves involved in an unexpected emergency situation early in the morning of 19 March. En route home from the 18 March shift, the bureau van and its five passengers happened upon a serious vehicle accident involving, among others, three of the Embassy's Marine Security Detachment. Thanks to the quick thinking of editor [redacted] who dispatched the FBIS employees home by taxis and then directed the medical lift of the injured with the van, and the calm actions of bureau driver [redacted] [redacted] who selected a close hospital and ferried the injured in a quick but safe journey, all the injured received prompt emergency medical attention. Two of the marines were hospitalized with concussions and other head injuries. Repeated expressions of thanks and gratitude were received later from the injured and from the Marine detachment leader. In addition, separate letters of commendation were given [redacted] by the Embassy's regional security officer.

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IV. VISITS

1. Senior editor [redacted] arranged for a 2 March visit to the bureau by four officers from the Embassy's Orderly Departure Program. Deputy Director Tom Doubleday and officers Nick McNeil, Tom Killeen and Bob McMahan requested and received a thorough briefing on FBIS field operations as well as a tour of the [redacted] facility. STAT

2. FBIS Deputy Director [redacted] visited the bureau 16-19 March. The busy visit sandwiched meetings with the Ambassador, other senior Mission officers and bureau staff and non-staff employees around a quick inspection trip [redacted]. STAT

3. Security officers [redacted] from Seoul visited the bureau on the 24th for a brief discussion of bureau security and to make some safe and vault lock adjustments. STAT

4. FBIS Career Management Assistant [redacted] visited the bureau 30 March-1 April for a general orientation. STAT

5. On 31 March, Director John Eastman of the Defense Attache's Technical Liaison Office and two of his officers, Lt Col Tom Johnson and Al Cameron, visited the bureau for a briefing and tour.

V. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

On 2 March, Ambassador John Gunther Dean hosted a reception at his residence in honor of Embassy Political Officer Tim Carney, the 1981 recipient of State Department's prestigious Director General's Award for Reporting. Among the attendees, personally selected by Tim, was Senior Editor [redacted] who came away gratified with the consistent expressions of appreciation for the FBIS product that were noted during the reception. STAT

[redacted] STAT
Chief, Bangkok Bureau, FBIS

WRS:mk

Attachments:

- Engineer Report
- Production Report

ENGINEERING ATTACHMENT

March Monthly Report

Bangkok Bureau

A. Non-Expendable Property Received:

1. The bureau's second complete set of residential furniture for a 3-bedroom house or apartment was received 30 March 1982. This set is the first set delivered under FBIS Contract S48-fa-1757.

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B. Items of Engineering Interest:

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2. A switch for the control of the bureau's electric front door release button was installed at the slot editor's desk. The switch will enable the receptionist or the slot editor, depending on where the switch is positioned, to control the front door release button, thus allowing better monitoring of traffic in and out of the bureau.

BANGKOK BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR MARCH 1982

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	542,700 (536,350)
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	241,670 (204,130)
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1,373 (1,369)

	<u>BROADCASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLICATIONS</u>
II. <u>INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:</u> (minutes or issues per week)	15,055 (15,055) min.	20,085 (20,085) min.	206.23 (206.23) issues
III. <u>OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:</u> (publishable words per month)			

AFGHANISTAN

Kabul NEW TIMES in English			1,590 (0)
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AUSTRALIA

Melbourne Overseas Service in English	20,490 (15,440)		
Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN in English			850 (1,830)
Sydney THE BULLETIN in English			0 (390)
Sydney THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN in English			0 (0)

BANGLADESH

Dacca Overseas Service in English	0 (0)		
Dacca Domestic Service in Bengali	8,750 (430)		
Dacca Domestic Service in English	9,200 (2,420)		
Dacca SANGBAD in Bengali			0 (510)
Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English			1,640 (0)

BURMA

Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese	8,260 (8,850)		
Rangoon BOTATAUNG in Burmese			0 (0)
Rangoon LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN in Burmese			140 (0)
Rangoon MYANMA in Burmese			80 (510)
Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English			1,160 (90)

CHINA

Beijing in Bengali to India and Pakistan	0 (0)		
Beijing in Burmese to Burma	550 (140)		
Beijing in Cambodian to Kampuchea	6,090 (4,230)		
Beijing in Hindi to South Asia	0 (0)		
Beijing in Indonesian to Indonesia	0 (0)		
Beijing in Lao to Laos	1,040 (0)		
Beijing in Malay to Malaysia	0 (0)		
Beijing in Thai to Thailand	0 (890)		
Beijing in Urdu to India and Pakistan	390 (0)		

	<u>BROADCASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLICATIONS</u>
<u>CLANDESTINE</u>			
(Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea	17,500 (16,680)		
(Clandestine) Voice of Malayan Democracy in Malay	0 (1,480)		
(Clandestine) Voice of the People of Burma in Burmese to Burma	4,880 (1,620)		
(Clandestine) SSPT in Thai to Thailand	700 (1,320)		
<u>HONG KONG</u>			
Hong Kong AFP in English		51,840 (39,510)	
<u>INDIA</u>			
Delhi General Overseas Service in English	2,800 (4,720)		
Delhi Domestic Service in English	23,420 (28,480)		
Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English		280 (5,760)	
Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English			8,250 (8,320)
Delhi NATION HERALD in English			2,630 (650)
Delhi PATRIOT in English			2,560 (3,200)
Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English			710 (710)
Calcutta ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali			0 (720)
Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English			5,590 (2,870)
Madras THE HINDU in English			1,740 (680)
<u>INDONESIA</u>			
Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesia	4,730 (12,660)		
Jakarta ANTARA in English		10,260 (7,360)	
Jakarta OANA in English		740 (4,900)	
Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian			0 (0)
Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES in English			710 (0)
<u>KAMPUCHEA</u>			
Phnom Penh International Service in English	0 (0)		
Phnom Penh International Service in Thai	0 (0)		
Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian	29,010 (57,250)		
Phnom Penh SPK in French		27,240 (30,200)	
		0 (0)	STAT
		0 (600)	
<u>LAOS</u>			
Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao	47,890 (30,080)		
Vientiane KPL in English		9,300 (4,770)	
		0 (0)	STAT
		0 (0)	
		0 (3,510)	
Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao			0 (0)

	<u>BROADCASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLICATIONS</u>
<u>MALAYSIA</u>			
Kuala Lumpur International Service in English	11,960 (9,940)		
Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English	5,870 (4,250)		
Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay	0 (0)		
Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English			600 (1,300)
Kuala Lumpur NEW SUNDAY TIMES in English			0 (0)
<u>NEPAL</u>			
Katmandu External Service in English	950 (880)		
Katmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English			890 (110)
<u>PAKISTAN</u>			
Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu	470 (80)		
Karachi Domestic Service in English	6,490 (8,910)		
Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu	8,950 (9,580)		
<u>SINGAPORE</u>			
Singapore Domestic Service in English	1,890 (3,250)		
Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English			0 (2,460)
Singapore THE SUNDAY TIMES in English			0 (230)
<u>SRI LANKA</u>			
Colombo International Service in English	350 (1,470)		
Colombo Domestic Service in English	0 (0)		
Colombo SUN in English			0 (0)
Colombo WEEKEND in English			0 (0)
<u>THAILAND</u>			
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English	6,420 (7,200)		
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai	4,660 (5,110)		
Bangkok Domestic Service in English	2,680 (3,700)		
Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai	11,480 (17,610)		
Bangkok MATICHON in Thai			1,840 (3,510)
Bangkok MATUPHUM in Thai			1,150 (140)
Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English			26,970 (24,270)
Bangkok POST in English			14,960 (22,680)
Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai			430 (1,560)
Bangkok SU ANAKHOT in Thai			0 (540)
Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai			0 (490)
Bangkok WORLD in English			570 (670)
Bangkok Domestic Television Service in Thai	490 (0)		

	<u>BROADCASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLICATIONS</u>
<u>UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS</u>			
Moscow in			
Bengali to Bangladesh	1,700 (0)		
Moscow in			
Burmese to Burma	3,180 (0)		
Moscow in			
Cambodian to Kampuchea	0 (260)		
Moscow in			
Hindi to India	0 (0)		
Moscow in			
Indonesian to Indonesia	1,050 (0)		
Moscow in			
Lao to Laos	720 (900)		
Moscow in			
Thai to Thailand	0 (0)		
Moscow in			
Urdu to India	0 (1,060)		
Moscow in			
Urdu to Pakistan	0 (730)		
Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in			
Indonesian to Indonesia	0 (0)		
<u>VIETNAM</u>			
Hanoi International Service in			
Cambodian	0 (0)		
Hanoi International Service in			
English	3,230 (7,910)		
Hanoi International Service in			
Thai	1,780 (4,510)		
Hanoi Domestic Service in			
Vietnamese	48,590 (64,030)		
Hanoi VNA in			
English		0 (0)	
		0 (0)	
Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in			
Vietnamese			22,350 (10,590)
Hanoi NHAN DAN in			
Vietnamese			25,750 (12,360)
Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in			
Vietnamese			11,270 (0)

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NOTE: Figures in parentheses are from preceding month

BANGKOK BUREAU

EMBASSY CIRCUIT OUTAGES FOR MARCH 1982

<u>DATE</u>	<u>GMT TIME</u>	<u>HRS MIN</u> <u>(PLANNED)</u>	<u>HRS MIN</u> <u>(UNPLANNED)</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
20	0535-0553		18	Unknown
20	0710-0725		15	Unknown
23	1335-1348		13	<input type="text"/>
TOTAL:			<u>46</u>	

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Total unplanned outage: 46 minutes.